



National Infrastructure Protection Center NIPC Daily Open Source Report for 15 January 2003

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here](#)

www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Washington Post is reporting on an interagency task force studying how to defend US commercial aviation against the threat posed by portable surface to air missiles. (See item [8](#))
- Local 6 News reports thousands of residents in Debary, FL, have been warned not to use tap water after a break-in at a water treatment plant. (See item [16](#))
- The General Accounting Office has published a report, "Homeland security: information technology funding and associated management issues" which identifies \$2.9 billion in IT funding for homeland security for fiscal year 2002 and for fiscal year 2003. (See item [22](#))
- Government Computer News reports that security is an increasing concern for agencies with employees bringing to work handheld wireless devices that don't mesh with federal security guidelines. (See item [24](#))
- Government Computer News reports the Open Web Application Security Project has released a list of the top 10 vulnerabilities in Web applications and services. (See item [25](#))
- Info World reports Microsoft has added a fourth category to its vulnerability rating system to help customers identify the most serious security vulnerabilities. (See item [26](#))

NIPC Update Fast Jump

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *January 14, Energy Pulse Weekly* — **Power-grid independence means better homeland security.** . Federal, state, and Canadian authorities recently completed the "Blue Cascades" project, a simulated terrorist attack on the Pacific Northwest's power grid. The study, which included companies such as Boeing, Pacific Gas & Electric, Verizon and Qwest, **showed that such an attack, if successful, could wreak havoc on the nation's economy, shutting down power and productivity in a domino effect that would last weeks. The situation is exacerbated by the almost total interdependence of each of the three U.S. grid systems: East, West and Texas.** And the threat isn't simply academic. U.S. occupation forces in Afghanistan discovered al Qaeda documentation about the facility that controls power distribution for the eastern U.S., fueling fears that an attack on the power grid may one day become a reality. **A possible remedy to this threat is distributed generation, or "DG," which eliminates reliance on the utility grid by locating power systems directly at a government user's premises.** DG allows organizations to disconnect from the highly vulnerable electricity grid and create their own power directly at the point-of-use. **If key facilities, especially government operations and infrastructure businesses like telecommunications centers, circumvent the grid, they can ensure service to the public during acts of sabotage, not to mention accidents and inadvertent power failures.** DG also places power at the point of use; it's a short-wire solution. The conventional electricity grid, in contrast, utilizes hundreds of thousands of miles of power lines and numerous substations – all open to attack at any point. In addition, multiple, small systems are less attractive target for saboteurs seeking to quickly and dramatically disable the nation's day-to-day operations.
Source: http://www.energypulse.net/centers/article/article_display.cfm?a_id=152
2. *January 14, Associated Press* — **TVA to expand wind power facility.** . The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), founded in the 1930s to generate power from hydroelectric dams, has signed an agreement to expand its wind power generating facility, the public utility said Tuesday. **The country's largest public utility has been operating three wind turbines on Buffalo Mountain, a reclaimed strip mine about 25 miles west of Knoxville, since 2001.** TVA will add 18 turbines to give the site a capacity of more than 28 megawatts, up from 1.8 megawatts. Invenergy, a Chicago-based energy development company, will build, own and operate the new turbines, which are expected to be in operation in November. Although the TVA project pales compared to large wind farms in the Pacific Northwest, California and Texas, "this is a significant commitment to wind in our region," said Stephen Smith, executive director of the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy watchdog group. **Nationally, wind power is the fastest growing electric power source – outpacing gas turbines, coal plants or nuclear plants, he said. The Energy Department lists 4,558 megawatts of U.S. wind power.**
Source: <http://www.tallahassee.com/mld/tallahassee/news/politics/4944202.htm>
3. *January 14, Wall Street Journal* — **Shipping problems remain a hurdle for Venezuela oil.** Even if the embattled government of Hugo Chavez is able to break an oil strike and return production to near-normal levels next month, as it pledged during the weekend, a flood of crude will not hit the world markets. **That is because Venezuela's export operations are so gummed up that only a trickle of oil is seeping out,** say striking executives from state oil monopoly Petroleos de Venezuela SA. **Most of the third-party tankers that moved PdVSA's oil before the strike are staying away due to the chaotic condition of Venezuela's ports.** Under normal circumstances, Venezuela is the world's fifth-largest oil exporter and a major supplier of crude to the U.S. The 43-day-old strike at PdVSA has crippled output and

caused world oil prices to shoot up just as the U.S. nears a possible war with Iraq that would further disrupt supplies. **While the government continues to insist that PdVSA's output is near 800,000 barrels a day, and it expects output to rise to 2.5 million barrels a day by mid-February, analysts and striking PdVSA executives seriously doubt the government's figures.** Ciro Izarra, PdVSA's international crude-trading manager before the strike began, said the government is relying entirely on its own eight crude-oil tankers, which hold 500,000 barrels each. The tankers can each make about two roundtrip voyages a month to the U.S. Gulf of Mexico, delivering a total of eight million barrels a month, less than 300,000 barrels a day. Venezuela also sends about 50,000 barrels a day to Cuba in smaller ships that don't pass muster with most international clients, Izarra said. On Monday, PdVSA's shipping problems appeared to be worsening when it lost oil tanker Astro Canopus because the oil monopoly didn't pay its charter bill, an executive at an international crude-oil charter company said. **A spokeswoman for the Williams/Enbridge consortium said its insurers had canceled its liability coverage because of a lack of harbor pilots and because the terminal had been "militarized."**

Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/0,,SB1042505228791847744,00.html?mod=economy%5Flead%5Fstory%5Fisc>

4. *January 13, The Lane Report* — **New plant to produce power from decaying trash.** OWEN Electric Cooperative and East Kentucky Power Cooperative (EKPC) have announced plans to build the first plant in Kentucky designed to produce electric power from decaying municipal trash. Owen Electric, which supplies electricity to nine Northern Kentucky counties, and its power supplier, Winchester-based EKPC, are scheduled to build a \$4 million plant to begin producing power at the Bavarian Landfill in Walton by the spring of 2003. **The 5,000-s.f. plant will tap methane emitted by decaying trash to produce 3.2 megawatts of electricity through four generators. Owen Electric will supply the electricity to retail customers through its green power program called EnviroWatts.** Through EnviroWatts, customers will pay \$2.75 more per month for each 100 kilowatt block of green power. The customer has the option to enroll for all or just a portion of their electric bill. EKPC is also planning to launch two other landfill gas projects in the next year. Gas-to-electricity projects are planned for the Green Valley Landfill in Greenup County and the Laurel Ridge Landfill in Laurel County. The Green Valley plant should be operational by the spring, and Laurel Ridge should be generating power by August.

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/newsroom/nr_article.cfm?id=3566536

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Chemical Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. *January 14, New York Times* — **General wary on number of cargo planes.** Although the Pentagon has managed to build up its forces around Iraq at a carefully calculated pace, it could find itself "significantly short" of cargo planes to rush troops and armor into future combat, the

general in charge of all military transport says. **The constant variable in the ability to transport warriors and weapons into combat remains speed versus the size of the load. The trade-offs are obvious. The average seagoing vessel in the military freighter fleet carries several hundred times the load of the C-5 cargo plane but may take days or weeks to sail to its destination.** If requirements prompt commanders to order fighting forces and weapons for speedy deployment to a war zone, it takes airlift, and General Handy said his flying fleet might not be able to meet the demand. **The prospect of a final rush of troops and equipment to the front points to potential stress in the system. The entire fleet of C-141 cargo planes is set to retire by 2006. The C-5's remain in service, but they are aging and cannot land on short or unimproved airstrips, which often are the only kind in a war zone. The C-130 remains a workhorse of the fleet, but it has a relatively small cargo capacity.** The spine of military airlift is the C-17. A study for the Transportation Command said the fleet required 222 of the C-17's. The command has just taken possession of the 101st of 180 approved for purchase at the rate of 15 a year. Some C-17's are leased to Britain, and some are assigned to training, leaving the command with 45 available on any given day, General Handy said. **Even the budgeted number of C-17's, he added, was "significantly short of what we analyzed and studied" as the minimum required to meet the military's transportation needs.** "And that study was conducted three years ago," the general said. "Since Sept. 11, the world has changed, and the requirements have certainly changed. Nobody knows what those requirements are. It is still a very dynamic world, a very unpredictable world. And the less predictability, the more reliance on air. That's the heart of the question."

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/01/14/national/14TRAN.html>

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Banking and Finance Sector

6. *January 14, Associated Press* — **Man pleads guilty to money transfer.** A man pleaded guilty Monday to running an illegal money-transferring business that sent nearly \$2 million to the Middle East. Kareem Abdalhassin Albasam, 42, allegedly used nine personal accounts at four Utah banks to transfer the money to Arab Bank in Amman, Jordan. His brother later distributed the money in Jordan, Syria and Iraq, authorities said. **Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Lunnan said investigators don't believe Albasam was trying to fund terrorism, only that the type of business he ran can be exploited by terrorists. "They are a perfect terrorist target because ... word gets around and he would never know who the money comes from," Lunnan said. "They aren't controlled and you can't monitor them."**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A51862-2003Jan13.ht ml>

7. *December 01, International Monetary Fund* — **Hawala: how does this informal funds transfer system work, and should it be regulated?.** Since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, public interest in informal systems of transferring money around the world, particularly the hawala system, has increased. **The reason is the hawala system's alleged role in financing illegal and terrorist activities, along with its traditional role of transferring money between individuals and families, often in different countries.** Against this background, governments and international bodies have tried to develop a better understanding of these systems, assess their economic and regulatory implications, and design

the most appropriate approach for dealing with them. Informal funds transfer (IFT) systems are in use in many regions for transferring funds, both domestically and internationally. The hawala system is one of the IFT systems that exist under different names in various regions of the world. It is important, however, to distinguish the hawala system from the term hawala, which means "transfer" or "wire" in Arabic banking jargon. **The hawala system refers to an informal channel for transferring funds from one location to another through service providers—known as hawaladars—regardless of the nature of the transaction and the countries involved.** While hawala transactions are mostly initiated by emigrant workers living in a developed country, the hawala system can also be used to send funds from a developing country, even though the purpose of the funds transfer is usually different **Where IFT regulations are conceivable, there is agreement that overregulation and coercive measures will not be effective because they might push IFT businesses, including legitimate ones, further underground. The purpose of any approach is not to eliminate these systems but to avoid their misuse. Against this background, policymakers tend to favor two options, which are already in force in some countries: registration or licensing of IFT systems. While these measures could deter illegal activities, they will not, in isolation, succeed in reducing the attractiveness of the hawala system. As a matter of fact, as long as there are reasons for people to prefer such systems, they will continue to exist and even expand. If the formal banking sector intends to compete with the informal remittance business, it should focus on improving the quality of its service and reducing the fees charged. Therefore, a longer-term and sustained effort should be aimed at modernizing and liberalizing the formal financial sector, with a view to addressing its inefficiencies and weaknesses.**

Source: <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2002/12/elqorchi.htm>

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Transportation Sector

8. *January 15, Washington Post* — **U.S. Acts to Thwart Missile Threat Against Airliners.** Top federal officials, increasingly concerned that terrorists will attack U.S. commercial aircraft with shoulder-fired missiles, are developing plans to thwart such strikes with measures that range from sophisticated anti-missile technology to simple changes in takeoff schedules. An interagency task force that reports to the National Security Council is also coordinating emergency inspections of every large U.S. airport to determine their vulnerability to the small, portable missiles, senior government officials said. And the task force is planning a public education campaign designed to teach police departments and citizens who live and work near airports to identify the missiles if they see them being assembled.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A57085-2003Jan14.ht ml>

9. *January 14, Washington Post* — **NTSB to be idled if posts go unfilled. The National Transportation Safety Board will be without a leader as of Saturday — which would leave the agency nearly paralyzed, unable even to launch accident investigations — unless the White House appoints a new chairman or vice chairman.** The former chairman of the five-member board, Marion C. Blakey, was named administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration last year, making Vice Chairman Carol J. Carmody the acting chairman. However, Carmody's term as vice chairman ends Saturday, though she will remain on the board

as a member. All executive power in the agency is vested in the chairman, and the only official function of members is to hear testimony, to make final determinations of the causes of transportation and pipeline accidents, and to make recommendations to regulatory bodies such as the FAA. The board has no regulatory powers other than the power of public persuasion. Carmody said last week in a letter to White House Chief of Staff Andrew H. Card Jr. that **only the chairman or an acting chairman has the power to distribute work, spend money, and appoint and supervise staff. "Any catastrophic accident is likely to involve a host of activities that are committed by statute and long practice to the chairman -- determinations regarding funding, emergency or supplemental; consultation and coordination with the attorney general regarding potential criminal activity; the use of the agency's subpoena powers; coordination with foreign counterparts are just a few examples,"** said Carmody.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A51786-2003Jan13.html>

10. *January 14, Federal Computer Week* — **Portal serves air traffic controllers. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has installed a service portal designed to give air traffic controllers easier access to critical data. The National Airspace System Adaptation Services Environment (NASE) presents customized information, based on users' requirements and roles.** The previous process for culling data -- regarding topics such as runway layouts and aircraft -- was time-consuming and labor-intensive. **The NASE also acts as a repository, providing a centralized flow of information through the FAA's technical center in New Jersey.** A prototype of the portal is supporting the high-profile Standard Terminal Automation Replacement System (STARS), according to a January 13 news release from ATG, the company whose technology the NASE is built upon. **STARS presents radar and flight plan data on color displays that show detailed weather information,** and it is one of the core initiatives slated to make modernization a reality in the next five years. The Center-Tracon Automation System, which assists controllers in the agency's regional air route traffic control centers, is next in line for the portal.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2003/0113/web-faa-01-14-03.asp>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

11. *January 14, Transportation Security Administration* — **Secretary Mineta announces \$148 million for transportation security programs to fund port, intercity bus, cargo grants.** As part of the Bush Administration's ongoing commitment to strengthen security throughout the nation's transportation system, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta today announced \$148 million in new transportation security grants. **Secretary Mineta said the \$148 million, made available by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), will include \$105 million in Port Security Grants, \$15 million in Intercity Bus Security Grants, and \$28 million for Operation Safe Commerce's pilot program for port security.** The Port Security Grants program includes grants for security assessments and strategies for mitigating vulnerabilities and for enhancing cargo and passenger security and access control. **Additional funds will be announced in the near future for port incident training to enhance prevention and response preparedness for countering terrorist incidents.** More than \$92 million in Port Security Grants has been distributed to 51 U.S. ports since June 2002. A

selection board composed of representatives from the TSA, U.S. Coast Guard and Maritime Administration (MARAD) will judge Port Security Grant applications. All grant applications are to be submitted to www.portsecuritygrants.dottsa.net. **Under Operation Safe Commerce, TSA today requested applications from the ports of Los Angeles/Long Beach, New York/New Jersey and Seattle/Tacoma for pilot programs using new security techniques with the potential for increasing the security of container shipments.** A notice was published in the Nov. 30, 2002 Federal Register soliciting comments on the program. Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/tsa0603.htm>

12. *January 13, U.S. Customs Service* — **Customs announces next step in anti-terror program.** U.S. Customs Service Commissioner Robert C. Bonner announced Monday that **Customs will begin taking applications on January 21 from domestic port authorities and marine terminal operators for participation in the Customs–Trade Partnership program.** The program, known as C–TPAT, is an initiative between business and government to protect global commerce from terrorism. Unveiled this past April, **the program initially sought membership from importers, carriers, and Customs brokers and freight forwarders.** The program calls upon the trade community to establish policies to enhance their own security practices and those of business partners involved in the supply chain. Once these policies are in effect, imports by these businesses are given expedited Customs processing at ports of entry. **To date, 1600 companies have agreed to participate in the program. Of this number, more than 300 are certified members and eligible for swifter processing benefits.** Source: <http://www.customs.ustreas.gov/hot-new/pressrel/2003/0113-02.htm>

13. *January 13, National Post (Canada)* — **Dismantle border, Canadian CEO group advises.** The Canadian Council of Chief Executives wants to dramatically remake Canada–U.S. relations, calling for the creation of a jointly managed North American perimeter with a common approach to borders, trade, immigration, security and defense. "What we are really talking about is totally reinventing the border. The border should no longer been seen as a demarcation line between Canada and the United States. It should simply be an internal checkpoint," said Tom D'Aquino, president of the CCE, which represents Canada's 150 largest corporations. "The whole focus on our strategy is homeland security and economic security. The two things are really inseparable." D'Aquino is expected to propose on Tuesday jointly managed North American entry points to combat terrorism, drug smuggling and illegal immigration, while opening up most border crossings to the relatively free passage of goods and citizens. **Dismantling the borders would require increased co-operation with law enforcement in both countries and similar policies on travel visas, immigration and refugees. D'Aquino, who will unveil the group's blueprint Tuesday, said there is a "virtual certainty of further terrorist strikes on the North America homeland" making it imperative for Canada to develop a new security and economic coalition with the United States or risk a loss of sovereignty.** Source: <http://canada.com/national/story.asp?id={B4D77FB3-FA39-45FF-BE93-61A7D1B6F135}>

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Agriculture Sector

14. *January 14, Edmonton Journal (Canada)* — **Elk ranchers hit with total farming ban. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has banned four former Saskatchewan elk farmers from growing grain or raising livestock because their land may harbour chronic wasting disease (CWD) organisms.** They're among 40 farms in Saskatchewan where elk tested positive for the fatal brain-wasting disease after a diseased elk was imported from South Dakota in 1989. It spread when offspring of the infected elk were sold and re-sold among 39 other farms. **Federal veterinarians have killed about 8,300 elk on the 40 Saskatchewan farms – and one Alberta farm – to try eradicate the disease.** It has cost the federal government \$33 million to compensate the farmers for loss of their elk and for disposal costs, said Dr. Lynn Bates, of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency in Winnipeg. **She told a weekend conference in Nisku the four Saskatchewan farms are banned from raising any livestock or growing grain until it can be proven that deer or elk won't become re-infected.** The ban on grain is to ensure it doesn't end up in animal feed.

Source: <http://www.canada.com/edmonton/edmontonjournal/story.asp?id=2E6FC67-16EE-4DD4-A383-017BB28FDDF7>

15. *January 13, Reuters* — **Nebraska reports two new cases of wasting disease. Nebraska wildlife officials have confirmed chronic wasting disease (CWD) in two wild mule deer shot by hunters last fall.** Both deer were killed in Nebraska's Panhandle region, where chronic wasting disease has been found before, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission said in a statement on Monday. The numbers bring the state's confirmed cases to 17 since the disease was discovered during the 2000 hunting season. **Nebraska launched its first statewide CWD testing program in the fall and collected brain tissue samples from roughly 4,200 deer submitted by hunters. The two new cases are the first confirmed from those deer. Staff at a University of Nebraska laboratory in Lincoln have processed about half of the samples so far.** Results on the rest are expected by the end of the month, said Bruce Morrison, a Nebraska Game and Parks Commission biologist. Morrison said he was not surprised that more CWD cases turned up in the state's Panhandle. "I'd be surprised if it had not, because CWD is in those areas," Morrison said in a telephone interview. "It's very encouraging that it's not in a new area," he said. **Samples from about 800 deer killed in eastern Nebraska all came back negative, he said.**

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N13347070>

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Food Sector

Nothing to report.

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Water Sector

16. *January 14, Local 6 News* — **Plant break-in prompts water alert in Florida. Thousands of residents in Debary, FL, have been warned not to use tap water after a break-in at a water treatment plant.** The water warning affects more than 4,200 people in DeBary, the southern end of Orange City and in some unincorporated areas. **Investigators said intruders broke**

through a security fence at the Glen Abbey Water Plant and removed a ladder access gate at one of the water storage tanks and a screen from another tank. Authorities believe that the break-in happened over the weekend but officials did not announce the incident until late Monday night. **The Volusia County Health Department is testing the water but are not sure if any water tampering took place. The water will reportedly be tested for toxicity, pesticides, cyanide, and other elements, according to a report.** Tests on the water should be completed in a few days.

Source: <http://www.local6.com/orlpn/news/stories/news-190683720030114-030138.html>

17. *January 14, Associated Press* — **California studies making sea water drinkable.**

California's quest for water, made more pressing by a Western drought and a cutback in the Colorado River supply, is turning toward what many see as an obvious source: the **Pacific Ocean**. For the most part, desalination has long been prohibitively expensive as a source of drinking water in California. But rising demand, dwindling supply, and new technology that makes it cheaper to take the salt out of sea water are changing the economics of desalination. "It is expensive, but it's not something of the other world anymore," said Adan Ortega, a spokesman for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, which serves 18 million customers. **The MWD is approving plans to subsidize five desalination plants, proposals that were submitted by local water agencies. Together, the plants could supply up to 7 percent of MWD's customers by 2007. The MWD tentatively approved the proposals in December and expects construction to begin by 2005, pending environmental reviews. The five plants are expected to cost between \$70 million and \$300 million each.**

Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=storyp_on_re_us/california_desalination_3

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Public Health Sector

18. *January 14, Reuters* — **Discord on German bioterror defense.** The head of Germany's top disease tracking institute has warned that smallpox virus "could be in the hands of people who should not have it," making it essential that detailed plans are in place to deal with a potential bioterror attack. **Reinhard Kurth, president of the Robert Koch Institut, told the German news magazine Der Spiegel that if mass vaccinations were to be successful in limiting damage from a bioterror attack, all of Germany's 82 million residents would have to be vaccinated within a matter of days.** Until the publication of the four-page article in the latest issue of Der Spiegel, details of Germany's bio-terror "master plan" had been highly confidential. The plan was developed by a committee of federal and state health officials, as well as experts from the Robert Koch Institut, which is Germany's version of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Der Spiegel reported that the master plan proposes three phases of action. **In phase one quick-reaction teams would be formed at the state and federal levels and doctors would be trained in giving mass vaccinations. Additionally, some 3,287 locations around the nation would be designated for delivery of vaccinations within 12 hours of the first report of smallpox. Phase two would start when a case of smallpox is reported anywhere in the world outside of Germany. In this phase, about 5 million Germans belonging to "priority groups" would be vaccinated immediately. The groups include doctors, nurses, police, firefighters, rescue workers, energy and water supply workers and the "political leadership." Phase three would go into effect if a**

smallpox case occurred in Germany. According to Der Spiegel, the master plan says: "Because of expected unrest as well as panic in the population, the vaccinations must be carried out with a few days."

Source: <http://reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=healthNews172>

19. *January 14, Chicago Daily Herald* — **Lack of insurance could hurt mosquito abatement boards.** As if West Nile virus weren't enough, those in the mosquito control business have a new problem which with to contend: the difficulty of getting insured. **Over the past year, the cost of providing liability coverage for most mosquito abatement districts has skyrocketed. And in some cases, insurance companies are refusing to cover the districts at all. In Illinois, at least three mosquito abatement districts – Wheaton, West Chicago and Glen Ellyn – have been notified that their coverage for board members has been dropped. Without the coverage, theoretically, board members could risk losing their personal assets if someone were to sue the district.** "You're just trying to do something good, and we've been very successful," said Dona Smith, a West Chicago mosquito board member for more than 20 years. "But there's no reason to put ourselves in jeopardy over the program." Wheaton mosquito board President Dennis Luehring said his colleagues are also concerned about continuing to serve. He said the district used to pay about \$2,700 a year for liability coverage. When that wasn't renewed, another company provided a quote closer to \$10,000, but then retracted that offer. Mosquito spraying can be fraught with lawsuit potential. **In New York, an anti-pesticide group filed a lawsuit alleging that mosquito sprays were a health hazard, though the suit was dismissed. On the other hand, in another New York case, families of two people who died of West Nile virus threatened to sue their county government for not doing enough to protect their loved ones.**

Source: http://www.dailyherald.com/dupage/main_story.asp?intID=3763567#

20. *January 13, , American Forces Press Service* — **West Nile virus risk sparks blood shortage; military seeks to refill inventory. The Armed Services Blood Program Office has asked the military to withdraw all frozen blood supplies donated during last summer's West Nile virus epidemic to avoid transmitting the potentially fatal disease to recipients. Meanwhile, blood collection centers and blood plasma manufacturers are scurrying to replace military stockpiles as a potential war looms in Iraq.** "There is some additional urgency" about the need to replenish supplies under the prospect of war, said Col. G. Michael Fitzpatrick, blood program office director. The armed services have already replaced at-risk blood supplies within the European and Central commands, which would be front-line in a conflict with Iraq. The withdrawal went into effect Dec. 13, after a statement by the American Association of Blood Banks. The American Red Cross, America's Blood Centers and the Armed Services Blood Program Office coordinated the withdrawal, which includes the Defense Department and civilian blood banks nationwide. The ultimate goal is to replace all the frozen blood withdrawn from the current inventory. "The withdrawal is focused on frozen products (particularly plasma products) that were collected in states experiencing mosquito-borne transmission of West Nile virus to humans in 2002," according to a blood program office press release. **The blood program office estimates it will take until mid-March to replace the entire inventory.**

Source: http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Jan2003/n01132003_200301131.html

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Government Sector

21. *January 14, USA Today* — **Bush frees cash to secure Soviet arms.** President Bush has signed a special order to release nearly a half-billion dollars in frozen funds to help Russia secure or eliminate nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, USA TODAY has learned. **The order ends a yearlong hold on spending for projects under the U.S. Cooperative Threat Reduction program. Administration officials say the program is an important defense against terrorists and rogue states obtaining old Soviet weapons of mass destruction.** The president's order frees more than \$150 million to build a facility to destroy chemical munitions at Shchuch'ye, Russia, where nearly 2 million artillery shells and missile warheads filled with deadly nerve gases sit in rickety, poorly secured barns. USA TODAY reported last fall that the funding freeze had stopped the project and raised concerns that some of the stockpiled weapons might fall into the hands of U.S. enemies.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2003-01-13-soviet-funds-usat_x.htm

22. *December 13, General Accounting Office* — **Homeland security: information technology funding and associated management issues.** The GAO identified \$2.9 billion in IT funding for homeland security for fiscal year 2002 and for fiscal year 2003. **For fiscal year 2002, \$1.2 billion of it is for organizations (agencies, departments, or components of these) proposed to move to the Department of Homeland Security. For fiscal year 2003, \$1.7 billion is for organizations proposed to move to the new department. Total reported IT funding for homeland security is likely understated.** For example, there may be other potential costs that are not reflected in reported totals, including multi-agency IT infrastructure (for example, secure networks), new intelligence systems, and funding for existing agency missions that appear to be related to homeland security (for example. Department of Defense, Federal Aviation Administration). **Of those organizations with significant IT funding that are proposed to move to the new department, the FBI's National Infrastructure Protection Center (NIPC), the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), the Coast Guard, and Customs have a large number of recommendations from the GAO's prior work that still require action.** Although the GAO did not have specific open recommendations for many of the organizations proposed to move to the Department of Homeland Security, most are from parent organizations that, based on their prior work, still face IT management issues. The majority of open recommendations are associated with securing information, having an architecture or blueprint to guide system development efforts, managing IT investments and developing and acquiring information system. **Since September 1996, the GAO has reported that poor information security is a widespread federal problem and therefore have designated it a governmentwide high-risk area.**

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-03-250> ; Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d03250high.pdf>

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Emergency Services Sector

23. *January 14, Associated Press* — **Alaska Governor links security, emergency services.** Gov. Frank Murkowski has ordered a reorganization within the Department of Military and Veterans

Affairs to merge new anti-terrorism duties with the state's disaster response efforts. **The executive order was signed on Friday but made public on Monday. Under the plan, Alaska's anti-terrorism duties will be overseen by an assistant commissioner also responsible for the state's response to natural disasters.** Earlier this month, Sam Johnson was appointed assistant commissioner for Homeland Security and Emergency Services. He will oversee both the Homeland Security Division and the Emergency Services Division. Each division will have its own director, the governor's office said.

Source: <http://www.adn.com/alaska/story/2460245p-2508124c.html>

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

24. *January 14, Government Computer News* — Spread of handheld devices raises security questions. Wireless security is a major concern for agencies that deal with ever-more tech-savvy employees bringing to work handheld devices that don't mesh with federal security guidelines, said CDW Government Inc. president James R. Shanks. As agencies are working to bolster network security, the proliferation of wireless devices is raising new security challenges, said Shanks. **The potential mobilization of military troops for a war with Iraq is "adding fuel to the fire,"** Shanks said. Meanwhile, **agencies also are working to merge a vast range of applications for use on wireless devices and figure out how to manage the applications from central servers.** Some companies that develop wireless software have met with standards writers to better align their products to meet federal and commercial security needs, said Larry S. Kirsch, senior vice president of CDWG. And a few companies have begun to pitch products that inventory and update network administrators when any user taps into the server via a wireless device.

Source: http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/20869-1.html

25. *January 13, Government Computer News* — Open-source group names top 10 Web vulnerabilities. The Open Web Application Security Project has released a list of the top 10 vulnerabilities in Web applications and services. The group said it wants to focus government and private-sector attention on common weaknesses that require immediate remediation. **In the longer term, this list is intended to be used by development teams and their managers during project planning,** the report noted. **"Ultimately, Web application developers must achieve a culture shift that integrates security into every aspect of their projects."** OWASP is a volunteer open-source community project created to bring attention to security for online apps. The OWASP vulnerabilities are well known, but continue to represent significant risk because they are widespread. **They can be exploited by code in HTTP requests that are not noted by intrusion detection systems and are passed through firewalls and into servers despite hardening.** The complete report and list of vulnerabilities is available on the organization's Web site, www.owasp.org.

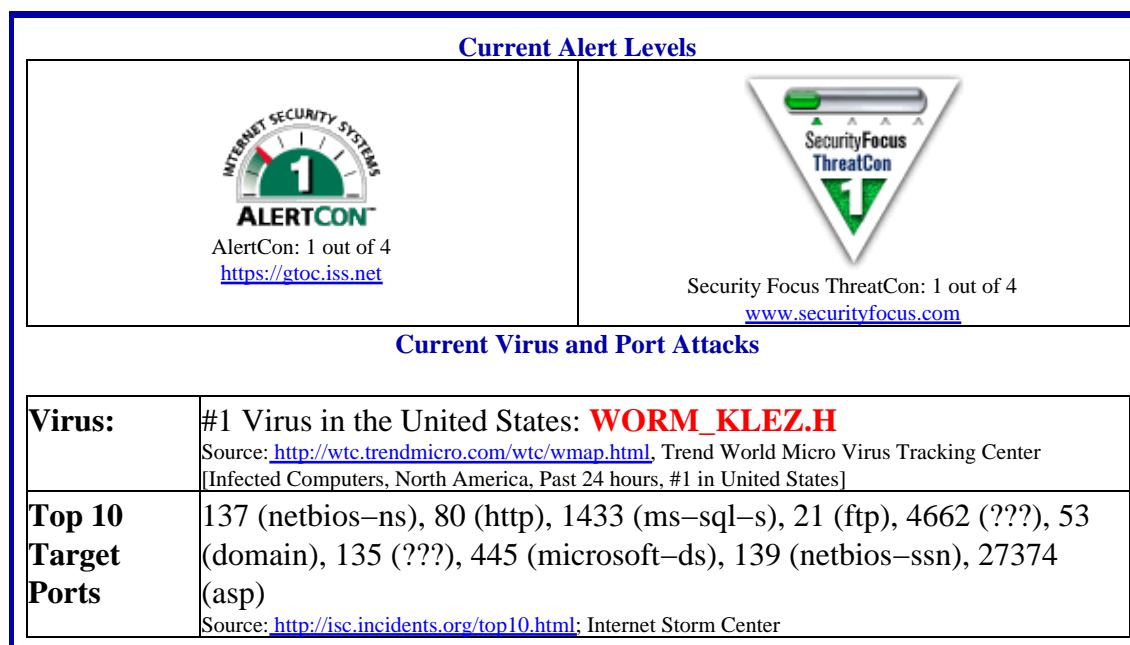
Source: http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/20862-1.html

26. *January 13, Info World* — Microsoft adds category to security rating system. After customers complained that they couldn't identify the most serious security vulnerabilities, Microsoft has added a fourth category to its vulnerability rating system. But critics feel that the extra tier adds even more complexity to an administrator's job. **Under the new system,**

fewer bulletins get the "critical" stamp. Only vulnerabilities that could be exploited to allow malicious Internet worms to spread without user action are now rated critical. Many issues that were previously rated critical are now "important," a new category in the rating system. These "important" vulnerabilities could still expose user data or threaten system resources, but they might not receive the urgent attention from administrators that they deserve. A two-tiered system would let administrators quickly decide whether they need to drop all tasks at hand and apply a patch, or whether the risk is small enough that they can wait and include it in a weekly patch cycle.

Source: <http://www.infoworld.com/articles/hn/xml/03/01/13/030113hnmsfourth.xml?s=IDGNS>

Internet Alert Dashboard



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General Sector

27. *January 20, US News & World Report* — **Saddam's secret weapon? Baghdad may try to incite terrorist reprisals, as it did in the last war.** U.S. officials fully expect Baghdad to try again should the United States invade Iraq. "We know they're trying to prepare for the possibility of some sort of terrorist activity," says one intelligence official. **But they also note that Iraq has not attempted a terrorist attack since a foiled 1993 plot to assassinate former President Bush in Kuwait. Nor is Iraq believed to have developed new terrorist capabilities, and its intelligence service lacks the kind of support network developed by al Qaeda. "No one is too concerned because they are too ham-fisted," says a senior official.** Despite this, nobody will be sitting still. Aside from the incompetence of Iraq's agents, a major reason that few attacks succeeded in 1991 was a full-court press by the United States and its allies. Some 200 Iraqi diplomats and intelligence agents were expelled worldwide. **At home, the FBI tailed the few remaining diplomats and monitored their telephones. Overseas, the**

CIA and the State Department helped persuade allies and others to mount extensive surveillance of Iraqi diplomats and students. "They were shadowed overtly," says retired Gen. Kenneth Bergquist, the State Department's associate coordinator for terrorism at the time. "They knew they were being followed." Plots were disrupted in France, Thailand, Egypt, and elsewhere, while Iraqi agents were arrested throughout Asia and Africa. By the numbers. Investigators were aided by Saddam's compulsion for tight central control. Iraq's operations were all directed out of embassies, which were closely monitored. And, as it turned out, the terrorists had been issued sequentially numbered passports, making it even easier for authorities worldwide to track them down. **Has Iraq learned from its mistakes?** Since the last war, terrorism experts say, Baghdad has noted the success of groups like al Qaeda and Hezbollah. And though clumsy in the past, Iraq's operatives have had more time to prepare this go-round. Also troubling: No regime with weapons of mass destruction has ever been toppled by military force. In one particularly worrisome scenario, Iraq's germ weapons or chemical agents could be handed off during the war to a terrorist group and not used until months later. "It would be an act of revenge fitting with Saddam's character," says Ahmed Hashim, an Iraq expert at the Naval War College. Source: <http://www.usnews.com/usnews/issue/030120/usnews/20iraq.htm>

28. *January 14, New York Times* — **Masters of suicide bombing: Tamil Guerrillas.** The Tigers did not invent the suicide attack, but they proved the tactic to be so unnerving and effective for a vastly outmanned fighting force that their methods were studied and copied, notably in the Middle East. "Of all the suicide-capable terrorist groups we have studied, they are the most ruthless, the most disciplined," said Rohan Gunaratna, a research fellow at the Center for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. He said the group was responsible for more than half of the suicide attacks carried out worldwide. In the 15 years since Captain Millar's attack — starting before the tactic was widely used in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict or by the Al Qaeda pilots who rammed passenger planes into two of the world's tallest buildings — the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam became the world's foremost suicide bombers, sending out about 220 attackers in all. Until Sept. 11, "they were the deadliest terror organization in the world," one American official said. They used men, women, children and animals; boats, trucks and cars. They mounted suicide attacks on the battlefield as well as off. Suicide bombers killed one Sri Lankan president, wounded another and killed a former Indian prime minister. They took out government ministers, mayors and moderate Tamil leaders, decimating the country's political and intellectual leadership. Mr. Gunaratna said the attack on the American destroyer Cole by Al Qaeda in 2000 had been almost identical to a Tiger attack on a Sri Lankan naval ship in 1991. The head of the Sea Tigers, Soosai, who organized suicide attacks on boats, oil tankers and the like, boasted in a recent BBC interview that the Cole attack had been copied from the Tigers.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/01/14/international/asia/14LANK.html>

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NIPC Alerts – Alerts address major threat or incident information addressing imminent or in-progress attacks targeting specific national networks or critical infrastructures.

NIPC Information Bulletins – Information Bulletins communicate issues that pertain to the critical national infrastructure and are for informational purposes only.

NIPC CyberNotes – CyberNotes is published to support security and information system professionals with timely information on cyber vulnerabilities, malicious scripts, information security trends, virus information, and other critical infrastructure-related best practices.

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